:tioned against each of them:

Modi Textile Ltd.	9-7-1884
Vishal Syntex Ltd.	3-10-1984
Modern Spinners	5-8-1983

(b) Closure of these units has been attributed to prolonged labour unrest and necessary conditions in the textile industry.

(c) A rehabilitation package for the revival of these units has been worked out.

Import of colour TV sets VCRs by Indian Tourists from Hongkong and Singapore

*410. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some organised syndicates send Indian 'tourists' regularly to Hongkong and Singapore for just two or three days to bring back colour TV sets and VCRs to be sold by the syndicates at a premium;

(b) if so, what was the number of colour TV sets and VCRs being brought into the country on an average per day during the last one year; and

(c) what corrective measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARY): (a) The free allowances and the concessional rates of duty provided under the Baggage Rules are available only in respect of bonafide personal baggage. In case any goods are considered to be not bonafide baggage, they are liable to confiscation and levy of fine and penalties.

Specific intelligence received regarding abuse of baggage concessions or smuggling by organised syndicates are duly acted upon by the Customs authorities and appropriate action taken, including prosecution whenever justified. Some general complaints have also been received that passengers visiting Singapore, Hongkong, etc. do so with the sole purpose of bringing consumer goods, electronic items, etc. for sale in India. The high rates of duty on baggage items coupled with the comparatively higher airfares would make such import for the purpose of sale generally un-remunerative.

VCRs and Television sets cleared as baggage are not allowed to be sold, displayed, advertised or offered for sale or displayed in a shop until market price of VCRs has depreciated to less than 50 per cent of their market price, when new and Television sets have been used for a period of not less than 5 years from the date of clearance. In case of violation of these requirements, these goods are liable to confiscation.

(b) The Department does not maintain statistics of item-wise imports in baggage at airports.

(c) Customs authorities at the air-ports, sea ports and Land Customs Stations and in cities remain vigilant in the matter and carry out frequent raids at the shops and in the market in such cases and take appropriate action.

Restructuring of Tariff rates of foreign Newsprint

*411. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Forty-Sixth Annual General Meeting of the Indian and Eastern Newspapers Society pleaded for restructuring of tariff rates of foreign newsprint; and

(b) if so, what is Government reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARY): (a) The speech of the President of the Indian & Eastern Newspapers Society delivered at its 46th Annual General Meeting refers to the December, 1984 judgement of the Supreme Court in regard to the levy of customs duty on newsprint and makes a plea for the removal of the levy.

(b) A detailed study in accordance with the judgement of the Supreme Court

has been undertaken by the Bureau of Industrial Costs & Prices in the matter. The Bureau have already submitted their report. The matter has thereafter been examined and is under consideration of the Government. A final decision will be taken shortly.

Identification of sick unts in small scale sector

412. SHRI M. BASAVARAJU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently monitored any report identifying the sick units in the small scale sector;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what are the names of the agencies which were associated with the job of finding out the viability or otherwise of the sick small scale Industries; and

(d) what are the reasons for which State-level inter-institutional committees were not associated with the job?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJAIAH): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

Service Conditions of LIC field workers

*414. SHRI K. MOHANAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the service conditions of the LIC field workers;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is no wage protection for this category of workers;

(c) whether any dispute on this issue is pending before the conciliation machinery of Government; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (d) The service conditions of the field workers of the LIC regulated by the Life Insurance Corporation of (Staff) Regulations, 1960, as amended in 1978 provide for a basic pay on a prescribed scale alongwith Special Pay, Dearness Allowance, City Compensatory Allowances, House Rent Allowance, ex-gratia in lieu of bonus. Conveyance Allowance and expenses on residential telephone. They are also given incentive bonus and additional conveyance allowance for better performance.

However, as per Staff Regulations, the field workers (Development Officers) are required to work within certain prescribed expense limit depending upon the area of operation. Performance on the higher expense limit attracts various types of disincentives ranging from 50 per cent cut in conveyance allowance to 1, 2, or 3 decrements. Extreme cases also attract termination of service though there are provisions for absorption of such a Development Officer in Class III cadre if he applies for the same and is otherwise eligible. However, adequate opportunities are given to the Development Officer to defend himself before any penal action is taken against him.

Several disputes regarding the service conditions of the Development Staff of the LIC were raised before the Conciliation Machinery of the Government and Reports on failure of conciliation were submitted to the Government by the Conciliation Machinery. The Reports are under consideration of the Government. Moreover, the issue of work norms is also pending before the Supreme Court for a decision.

News-item captioned "NRI help to market New export items advocated"

*415. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'NRI help to market new export items advocated' which appeared in the *Business Standard* of the 16th December, 1985; and